Cryonics Society of Michigan Newsletter
February, 1970 Vol. 1, No. 2

Editors: Pat Dewey, Mae Junod

Mary Ruwart to be in doctoral program in cryobiology at MSU (Story p. 2)

Dr. Stanley W. Mayer to speak at National Conference (p. 2)

Mary Ruwart

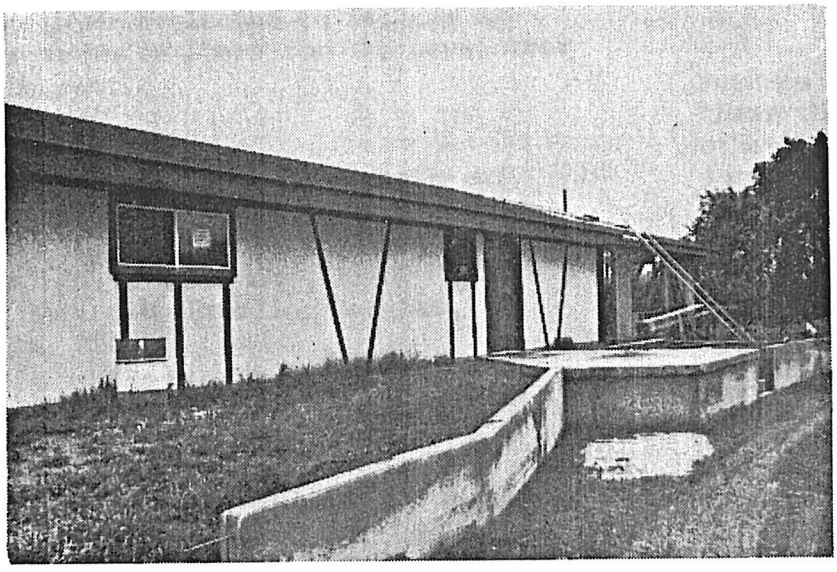

photo by David Cowles

Building at Hope Knoll

Hope Knoll Cemetery Association formed (p. 2)

Student speakers active (p. 2)

...other items

EDITORIAL

Many people seem to be missing the point in relation to cryonics. The thousands of criticisms people might bring against cryonics won't change the well established fact that there is no evidence that the frozen dead will not be brought back or that cryonics will not be perfected and every proof that buried and cremated persons will never tread the earth again.

Every now and then a friend drops in to enlighten me about how it will be impossible to find room for all of the people kept in suspension, how we can't even bring back a mouse, how the time span will be more than anyone can cope with, etc., etc., I generally let such a person go on until his tirade comes to an end. Then I agree that I don't know that all of these problems will be insurmountable or even arise. All I do know is that cryonics offers a better chance than a hole in the ground.

Pat Dewey

OVERSIGHT

Last month we neglected to include an address to which items for the newsletter might be sent.

To prevent confusion, one address only will be given, although there are two editors. Please send any suggestions or information to Mae Junod, 33160 Karin Drive, Apt. 218, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48077.

MEMBERS RETURNED

Bernard and Barbara Davies, who were once regular members (Bernard was the first secretary of the original CSM) have decided to join us again as associate members. They are now living in a new home in Troy, Michigan. Bernard took a position which kept him traveling a great deal and this made it impossible to attend CSM meetings regularly. Needless to say we welcome the Davies back and hope they will in time become regular members again.

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

At the December business meeting it was decided that CSM members would strive to increase total membership from its present level (which is reported to be approximately 30 full and 37 associate members) to 100.

If we were to use one suggested method, each one bring one, we would be able to double our membership. How many of us are actively engaged at this time in interesting another person or persons in the cryonics movement?

One of the things that makes an organization dynamic is the activity of its members. How many of us are waiting for someone else to increase the membership? Every CSM member should be not only a fervid convert and inspired practicioner, but an enthusiastic promoter as well.

Perhaps the first step in becoming all these things is to get an answer to some other questions, especially the all important one, "How?" How can one become an inspired practicioner and an enthusiastic promoter. What can we do? Those are good questions.

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP FORUM

Please note the term seminar has been dropped in favor of forum, which seems to have broader connotations.

The Monroe Forum was on February 12, too late to get a story in this issue. The March forum will be sponsored by Pat Dewey in Pontiac.

CRYONICS CLUB OF OAK PARK H. S.

Shelley Ettinger, daughter of Bob and Elaine, recently spent a day at Hazel Park High School with Steven Ron, John Kinney, Mark Shulman and Iza Behrmann, all members (as is Shelley) of the Cryonics Club of Oak Park High School.

Shelley and Steven were the principal speakers in the morning at the hour long assembly of some 700 students. In the afternoon the Cryonics people split into two groups and visited individual classrooms where they answered questions from students.

Shelley reports that, although some individuals expressed interest and apologized for the antagonism of others, the general reception was hostile. The basis for this negative reaction was religion. The community in which the school is located is composed largely of blue collar workers who are mostly Baptists and Fundamentalists. Apparently some of their beliefs are not, or seem not to be, compatible with the cryonics concept.

Shelley and Steven are planning to make presentations to biology classes at Shrine High School in Royal Oak early in March and have formulated what they hope will be effective rebuttals should such objections again be presented.

MARY RUWART IN DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Mary Ruwart, who has been a member of CSM since September of 1969, is planning to embark upon a doctoral program in cryobiology at Michigan State University (where she is now a student) either this summer or fall. She will be working at first in the broad field of biophysics under Dr. E. M. Eisenstein, but will eventually work under some other person in the more specific field of cryobiology related to cryoprotection.

One of the big roadblocks in development of the cryonics program is the lack of full knowledge about effective cryoprotective methods. Complete control of damaging cell reactions to freezing has not yet been accomplished. It is in some aspect of this area that Mary will eventually specialize.

She reports that there is at present no Cryonics Club at Michigan State and she has encountered some hostility to the concept. She hopes to initiate a club at some future time. Her efforts in the scientific field will undoubtedly make those in the social field easier.

L. A CONFERENCE: MAYER ON POLYWATER

Dr. Stanley W. Mayer has accepted an invitation to speak at the National Cryonics Conference in Los Angeles, May 15-16. Dr. Mayer, a physical chemist, has been working with the strange new form of water recently discovered, called "polywater." It consists of clusters or chains of the familiar H_2O water molecules. This clustering produces remarkable new properties including a much lower freezing point, less expansion on freezing and increased stability. One of the more important possibilities is its use in freezing human patients with less damage than by other means.

HOPE KNOLL OFFICIAL

Joe Cannon tells us that on January 13 the Hope Knoll Cryogenic Cemetery Association was formed, with nine trustees, in Wisconsin. This is the first cemetery association in the world formally incorporated for this purpose. (The California and New York facilities are portions of previously existing cemeteries). The building, near Appleton, has yet to be approved for vault use.

Mr. Cannon is also investing, in partnership with a cryogenic engineer, in the design of a new type of permanent storage unit, which hopefully will reduce costs and offer other advantages. His patient work, with the help of Mrs. Cannon, is broadening the way for all of us.

ILLINOIS SOCIETY -- ALMOST

We hear from John B. Krug that the Cryonics Society of Illinois has not yet been incorporated, but is making some headway, mostly in the Chicago area. He and Miss Lucile Doty have been working persistently against the usual handicaps of not enough time or money or self-propelled people. Perhaps we'll meet some of the Chicagoans at the conference in Los Angeles.

BOB ETTINGER'S BOOK REISSUED

We forgot to mention in the last issue that Bob Ettinger's book, The Prospect of Immortality, was reissued in paperback in November. We're hoping to see more of Bob's work in print in the future.

Just think--if everyone of us wrote something for publication on the subject of cryonics, how much stir it would cause, if nothing else, from editors encountering such a stream of submissions on the subject.

We live in an age when a few people can make an awful lot of noise and create a strong effect with it.

A good subject for an article would be the exposition of cryonics as the only organized life affirming concept in an era preoccupied with death, violence and general negativism. In fact, modern western philosophy is based upon such death embracing ideologies as that of Plato, who denigrated the body in favor of the psyche, automatically making death the ultimate fulfillment of the greatest human potential. This is true to a large extent in eastern thought as well.

If you can't convince someone you know to embrace cryonics, maybe you can reach out to the general public and convince people with your written eloquence.

EXAMPLE OF ELOQUENCE

There once was a guy, Ebenezer,
Who put his girl in the freezer.
But he thawed her at once
When he found out, poor dunce,
That it wasn't much fun to squeezer.

BOOK REVIEW

Frederik Pohl's The Age of the Pussyfoot isn't exactly new, having appeared in 1965 in magazine serial form (Galaxy), then in hard-cover. It is now available in paperback (Ballantine). If you've missed it before, there's no excuse now.

The book, about the adventures of a man frozen in the 20th century and revived in a later one, is by far the best of several dealing with the cryonics theme. It has just about everything--shrewd extrapolation of existing trends, wry and startling touches of invention, carefully paced plot development, awe and pity. This is one of those books the reader hates to see come to an end, it's so enthralling.